ducted journals being distinguished from scurrilous papers, and due encouragement given to the former by Government notifications being given to them for publication and Government printing works being ordered to be executed by them.

Reply.—Regulation II of 1079 is the present law on the subject and section 26 enables Government to frame the necessary rules. From what I have been able to gather during my short experience, I think it is necessary to frame rules for the regulation of printing-presses and newspapers. Whether it will be in the way of allowing further freedom or in the way of checking the abuse of the privilege, it will be time enough to consider when the matter is taken up. The statement that the meetings of the Legislative Council are closed to press representatives is incorrect, the fact being that they are now allowed free admission. As regards job-works, they are being given to local presses whenever necessary and feasible. If the member refers to one or two big works recently entrusted to outside firms, I believe that must have been due to special causes. Ordinarily, all Government works will be executed in the Government Press. But where it is found desirable to get such works done by private agencies, the claims of local presses will receive due consideration.

207. Cancelment of the notifications regarding telegraphic messages and Anchal petitions.

Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai, B. A., B. L., (Trivandrum) stated that the rules at present required specific information being superscribed on registered covers, before they could be accepted. It was also laid down that telegraphic messages would not be received. These provisions worked hardship in the case of ignorant petitioners and in emergent circumstances. He therefore requested that Government might be pleased to cancel the notifications if possible or make such modifications in them as would exclude at least emergent matters from within their scope. He further represented that other officers, for whose guidance these rules were evidently never intended, were also rejecting such communications, much to the detriment and inconvenience of the public.

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Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Ettumanur), Mr. Ousep Kuria Aippu (Muvattupuzha) and Mr. Warkey John (Travancore and Cochin Roman Catholic Association, Kottayam) also spoke on the subject.

Reply.—I regret there is so much of misapprehension in regard to the notification about anchal petitions. This was published on the 26th Chingom 1082 and a patient perusal of it would show that there is absolutely nothing in it to work any such hardship as was mentioned by the first speaker. All that it lays down is that in all petitions transmitted by registered anchal and hence requiring an acknowledgment, the petitioner should note on the cover his name and the subject-matter. This is not an unreasonable provision, but on the other hand it secures the receipt of the cover without the risk of being rejected as an anonymous communication. As a matter of fact, every petition, through whatever channel it is sent and whatever matter it might contain, is readily accepted and promptly attended to.

In regard to telegraphic messages, the recent notification on the subject is only a repetition of the one in force since 23rd August 1902 and no complaint was raised about the latter from any quarter whatever until now.

Then, as regards other officers following the notifications to which objection is now taken, these Huzur notices were not intended to apply to them. But persons affected by any procedure adopted by these officers ought, in the first instance, to apply to them for redress. If relief is not afforded there, the matter will be looked into by Government, when brought to their notice.

208. Cancelment of Government order prohibiting the submission of petitions direct to His Highness the Maha Rajah instead of through the Dewan.

This subject which stood in the names of *Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Ettumanur)* and *Mr. C. Padmanabha Pillai (Karunagapalli)* was disallowed.

209. Opening of press-rooms in the Secretariat and supplying all respectable presses with Government papers.

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